



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 September 2014

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit hereby a joint letter by H.E. Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, and H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, addressed to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, which was received by the Office of the President of the General Assembly on 16 September 2014.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Arthur Kafeero  
Chef De Cabinet

To All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 September 2014

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to transmit the joint letter dated 29 August 2014 from His Excellency Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and His Excellency Mr. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, which details the impact of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and puts in evidence the impact of the EVD outbreak and highlights its implications for West Africa and beyond.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "B" and "K".

BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. John W. Ashe  
President of the General Assembly  
New York



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

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August 29, 2014

His Excellency Ban Ki Moon  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
New York, New York

Dear Secretary General:

As you are no doubt aware, the sister republics of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are presently entrapped by the largest recorded outbreak of the dreaded Ebola virus disease, an epidemic that has placed enormous strain on our institutions, especially our health care systems. This unprecedented outbreak occurred as we were enjoying relative peace, security and stability within the sub-region and making collective efforts to enhance the socio-economic development of our countries and peoples. At a time when we are still putting together the basic components of our health infrastructure, and already producing improved infant and maternal mortality outcomes, the epidemic has dealt a devastating blow to our efforts. The rates of infection and death among health care workers, as well as the fears of those who would otherwise seek non-Ebola-related medical attention, have had a chilling effect on our health sectors, leaving some common diseases untreated. In the face of these challenges, we have taken decisive and substantive steps to contain the disease. We have in varying initiatives from our respective governments restricted movements in parts of our countries, declared a state of emergency, suspended non-essential government work, closed schools, stopped the operations of nightclubs, cinemas and video centres, and brought in the military to assist Government Departments in fighting the disease.

The World Health Organization is now providing strategic support and coordination to help combat this disease. With your appointment of Mr. David Nabarro, as Senior Coordinator of the UN System Response to Ebola and across the spectrum, international response is being scaled up. With this comprehensive response augmenting our efforts, we are confident that we are now close to reversing the spread of the outbreak.

Yet, Mr. Secretary-General, we now face virtual economic sanctions and trade embargos that will end up aggravating the effect of the outbreak on our economies and stifling our attempts to control the epidemic. Most of the airlines have suspended or cancelled flights to our countries. One of the remaining airlines, Brussels Airlines, is now under pressure to suspend flights to the region. They have been denied and refused technical stopover rights all along the West African coast making it

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increasingly difficult for them to continue services to our capitals. Petroleum product suppliers received a notice forbidding ships berthing in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone from docking at Pointe Noire. As the sanctions widen, it will become impossible to bring in the international expertise and supplies required to end the outbreak. Prices have already begun to rise and these sanctions will cause them to escalate even further at a time when domestic production has slowed dramatically. This could have disastrous economic consequences that transcend the sub-region and could potentially return our countries to poverty levels that prevailed during earlier periods of conflict and instability. Some of the potential economic effects include cancellation of new investments or expansion of operations of large mines; drastic cuts in tourism; shortages of imported goods and cancellation of meetings in the sub-region.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or body fluids of infected living or dead persons. This is why it has been mostly family members of the infected and health workers who have contracted the virus. The World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have been clear that such blanket travel bans are not necessary and may actually prolong the fight against the disease. They may even counteract all the actions we have taken to encourage behavioral change, which is crucial to breaking the transmission chain.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the world has inexorably marched toward deeper integration, reducing it to a global village. The world has collectively benefited from this integration as trade and commerce have spread to the extent that even the most underdeveloped countries find themselves in the value chain of the most developed. In the face of a challenge to that system, it appears that the rest of the world is leaving Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone ostracized, sanctioned and abandoned. It is not enough to send donations and supplies while our economies are left to die of slow strangulation. As impressive as our gains have been since the end of civil war, conflict and instability in our countries, those gains are fragile and reversible. It now appears that these sanctions are hastening a reversal. Everything we have collectively achieved in the Mano River Union over the last decade is now threatened.

We are therefore requesting the intervention of the United Nations with our neighbors far and near to end the sanctions. We appreciate the need for caution to prevent the disease from spreading beyond the current incidence countries and we are prepared to cooperate with our neighbors in instituting such measures. We request a UN Resolution on a Comprehensive Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak. The Resolution would include:

1. Coordinated international response to end the outbreak.
  - a. WHO providing strategic guidance for overall response and the restoration of basic health service.
2. Coordinated international response to supporting the societies and economies of affected countries during the outbreak.
  - a. Maintaining trade links with reasonable precautions;
  - b. Maintaining transportation links with reasonable precautions.
3. International public education campaign.

By adopting such a resolution, we will be able to adequately respond to the crisis and minimize the effect on the economies of our affected countries.

It is our fervent hope that this matter will be given sympathetic consideration and treated with urgency.

Please accept Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of our highest consideration and esteem.

**DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

  
**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

  
**PROFESSOR ALPHA CONDÉ**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**